

## **Statewide Data Program Needs Assessment**

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#### **Program Description**

Some observations about Southern Region Office by Mark Stewart.

The Southern Region Office does not collect surface water data. Farmers grow crops year round in the Imperial Valley, and half of the population of the State lives in Southern California.

The number of agencies (organizations) in Southern California is overwhelming. There are many regional and local organizations. Sometimes there are overlapping jurisdictions. DWR is not the only game in town, as it may be in other regions. Add to this that these organizations are sophisticated (that is good). They often do not need or want DWR's help.

Most programs want the same information. Most programs have the same funding issues: there is not sustainable funding.

#### **Groundwater Section**

The section uses groundwater levels, well completion reports and GIS. They collect all the groundwater level data directly for four projects:

Poloma Valley. DWR measures groundwater levels quarterly, and has since 2000. The project started when MWDSC constructed Diamond Valley Reservoir. DWR took groundwater level and water quality samples. Today, the project is maintained only because staff in Southern Region Office believes it is important to do so, and it provides an interesting case study for groundwater supply in fractured rock. The project is not funded.

Coachella Valley. DWR measures groundwater levels quarterly, and has since 2004. The project started because of the Governor's Drought Panel funding. Coachella Valley Water District was not willing to share their groundwater data, so DWR started collecting its own. Today the Water District is more cooperative. DWR is also cooperating with USGS on this project.

Borrego Valley. DWR measures groundwater levels twice a year, and has since 2003 or 2004. This project was funded by a grant from AB 303. DWR logged the wells and took geophysical measurements. They have been working on determining the change in

groundwater storage and specific yield of the aquifer. This project is funded by the Water and Environmental Monitoring Program funding.

San Pascal Basin and the City of San Diego. This project started in 2010. DWR has not measured any groundwater levels yet. The section has worked to set up a monitoring network, and teach the staff at the City how to monitor it.

Most of the groundwater information comes from other agencies.

The section is asked questions that they do not have the data to answer. The California Water Plan, CASGEM and the Drought Program want to know if there is overdraft in a basin? To answer that question, you need to know about the change in storage over time. To analyze that, you need to have a basin analysis and changes in groundwater levels.

For many years, the section has collected groundwater level information from other agencies, xeroxed their log books, and key entered the data. The section has spent a lot of time trying to collect the historical data from agencies. One of the problems is that CASGEM does not have the historical data that Water Data Library did (the data has not been migrated at the time the conversation took place).

The section used to do water quality evaluations too. They did some collection of surface water water quality and groundwater water quality in West Basin and Antelope Valley. These were mostly grab samples from surface water, and they were not very useful. The section could not identify who was using the data, so they decided to focus on groundwater water quality.

The Raymond Basin is not in the Water Master Program. The section collects groundwater levels from it twice a year because it used to be in the Water Master program. Another organization monitors the groundwater extraction.

The Water and Environmental Monitoring Program is dominated by WCC/WCL ??.

Well Completion Reports have a single person, full time. Public requests take up 90% of this person's time. They are trying to scan the reports, and often get other people to help. The section keeps track of the requests they get, all the way back to 1998.

The section would like to look into a comprehensive evaluation for a water balance in the desert, including precipitation, stream flow, deep percolation and recharge for desert basin. There are time lags in the inflows and outflows of water. Good data, and a good study candidate, is hard to find. CASGEM should help this effort in the long run. Local agencies have data too.

The products that people want are generally the same. People want contour maps and hydrographs. The section would like to get a geodatabase set up where it can automate some of these processes on a regular basis. The section would also like to say something about surface water at the same time.

When there is a drought or a fire, DWR would be able to sell these products.

#### Water Master Program

The program has four people, and monitors about 400 – 500 wells.

West and Central Basins are monitored twice a year. All the wells are metered. DWR staff verifies the meter accuracy. The organizations have extraction data, though it is hard to get accurate data. All of the meters are volumetric meters. DWR has to maintain the meters; some have to be maintained every year.

The program collects data about ownership, who has what water right, how much is the party allowed to pump. The data is stored in SAP. There is a front end that was built for the program. Pumpers object to public accessibility to the data.

It would be nice to have records of what meter had been tested when, and to get reminders of when a meter needed to be tested again.

The program stores its groundwater level data in Excel. Milan would rather have an MS Access database.

LA Department of Water and Power got a grant to install 115 wells.

#### IRWM Program

The section monitors grants. They use the Bond Management System to monitor grants to local and regional organizations.

A few years ago, they compiled water conservation practices when Southern California was experiencing a drought.

The program works on the regional reports for the California Water Plan.

GIS – many people in the office dabble in it, but there is no one technically competent in it (as there is in other regional offices).

Network connection speed is an issue for sharing data.

The data collected by the branch supports many programs. Those programs do not support the data collection. There is no money for data collection. And there is no data because what little funding there was has been cut.

The total funding for the office is \$6.5. Water and Environmental Monitoring Program, Southern California Water Management Program and the Water Master Program account for a quarter of the total budget.

**What data does your program need to be successful?**

**Do you have the data your program needs?**

**Is data managed in a way that meets your program needs?**

## **Apportioning Costs**

## **Other Issues**